(d) and (e) Trade balance at the end of April-January 1992-93 is estimated at US $ 3596.39 million which is larger than the trade balance of US $ 1583.81 million at the end of April-January 1991-92 but lower than US $ 5446.54 million as at the end of the corresponding period of 1990-91.

**गुजरात की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में कालाबाजारी**

*439. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा** : क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में गुजरात नागरिक आपूर्ति निगम के कुछ कर्मचारियों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं की कालाबाजारी करने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है?

**नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद)** : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं । तथापि, 1986 में लेखा-परीक्षा के दौरान निगम के एक कर्मचारी द्वारा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं का दुरुपयोग किए जाने की बात सामने आई थी । उक्त कर्मचारी को निलम्बित कर दिया गया था और उसके विरुद्ध सिविल और आपराधिक शिकायतें दायर की गई थीं । फरवरी, 1993 में उक्त कर्मचारी को मुख्य न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट द्वारा दोषी करार दिया गया । तथापि, सेशन अदालत में अपील किए जाने पर कारावास के आदेश को निलम्बित कर दिया गया है ।

(ग) गुजरात राज्य नागरिक आपूर्ति निगम में, गोदामों के कारबार की जांच करने के अलावा सनदी लेखाकारों की बाहरी एजेंसी द्वारा आन्तरिक लेखा परीक्षा करवाने की एक प्रणाली मौजूद है ।

Export of Molasses

*440. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of molasses exported in 1991-92;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the export of molasses during 1993-94; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) As per statistics brought out by the DGCI&s, molasses exported during 1991-92 was 287504 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Deregulation of PDS**

3804. SHRI MATANG SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for deregulation and debureaucratisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country with a view to drastically cutting food subsidy and dismantle huge chain of vested interest acquired over years by those who are running PDS; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken/proposal under consideration for revamping of PDS alongwith implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. While the Central Government has no proposal to drastically reduce the food subsidy, continuous efforts are made to strengthen and streamline the PDS. Such efforts are directed towards improving the reach of the PDS, minimising diversion of PDS commodities by vested interests and to make avail-

able the subsidised foodgrains to needy and deserving sections of the population.

With a view to improving the reach of the PDS in desert, drought prone, hilly and tribal areas, the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations, identified about 1700 blocks covered by various area specific programmes for implementing the scheme for Revamping the PDS. State Governments had agreed to open additional fair price shops (FPS), issue additional ration cards, create/hire storage capacity for stocking of foodgrains in the interior areas, make arrangements wherever possible for doorstep delivery of PDS commodities at the doorsteps of FPSs and set up Vigilance Committees of beneficiaries at FPS/Village level etc. Substantial progress has been achieved in the opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards. The Central and State Governments are monitoring the progress made in this regard.

The foodgrains meant for distribution in the Revamped PDS areas are specially subsidised by the Central Government. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains for these areas is Rs. 50 per quintal lower than the normal PDS areas. Measures have been taken to improve the allocations and availability of PDS foodgrains in the RPDS areas.

***Items declared as essential commodities***

3805. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of items declared as essential commodities by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to prune the list of essential commodities to keep only items of mass consumption; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) A list of items declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is annexed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Review of the list of essential commodities is undertaken by Government from time to time in consultation with the Ministries/Departments administratively concerned with the items and addition/deletions to the list are made accordingly.

LIST OF COMMODITIES DECLARED ESSENTIAL UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

*Declared under Clause (a) of Section 2 of the Act*

1. Cattle Fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates.
2. Coal, including coke and other derivatives.
3. Component parts and accessories of automobiles.
4. Cotton and woolled textiles.
5. Drugs.
6. Foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils.
7. Iron and Steel, including manufactured products of Iron & Steel.
8. Paper, including newsprint, paperboard and straw board.
9. Petroleum and Petroleum products.
10. Raw Cotton, whether ginned or unginned and cotton seeds.
11. Raw jute.

*Declared under sub-clause (xi) of clause (a) of Section 2 of the Act*

12. Jute textiles.
13. Fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed.
14. Non-ferrous metals.
15. Organic heavy chemicals.
16. Inorganic heavy chemicals.
17. Cinema films (raw).
18. Press Mud.
19. Cement.